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MEMORANDUM of the REQUIREMENTS in the NEW BUILDINGS at the SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM on the east side of the Exhibition Road, issued to the competing architects in January 1891.

The general plan of the buildings should be as follows :—

The eastern portion should contain the additional office accommodation required for administration, both of the Science and Art Department and of the Museum. The centre should provide for the increase in the Libraries and in the European Collections ; the western portion being assigned to the Oriental Collections.

It is suggested that the main entrance should be in the centre of the south front, sufficiently recessed to allow of a carriage drive being formed within the boundary railing. Three rooms are required for the police, and these should be provided in one or two lodges within the boundary, adjacent to the entrance and exit gates.

There should be also a public entrance at the north end of the west front of the new buildings, and service entrances at the east and west wings. A lift should be provided near each service entrance.

The space required in the several portions of the buildings, irrespective of basement, which should be provided throughout, is as follows :—

Eastern.—For offices 20,000 superficial feet of floor space (besides the basement and passages), the rooms being principally large. Refreshment rooms for the staff should be provided, and may be in the basement. Top-lighted space for the examination and exhibition of students' works is required equivalent to 100 ft. by 60 ft., but this may be obtained in the eastern portion of the Exhibition Courts or Galleries by partitioning off the space temporarily for the purpose.

An open court of sufficient area should be provided at the south-east angle of the new buildings, within the front, to admit of carts delivering the cases containing students' works and for official deliveries, and a space of not less than 5,000 superficial feet on the ground floor level in which the works may be unpacked, sorted, etc., a communication being made between the said open court, the unpacking room, and the portion of the Exhibition Courts or Galleries proposed to be screened off temporarily for the exhibition of the works.

The carriage entrance at the eastern end of the south front must be retained in the new building, so that there may be an uninterrupted carriageway round the back of all the buildings both new and old.

The additional office accommodation should form part of the east end of the south front of the new buildings, and may be included in the principal elevation or be subordinated to it as the Architect may consider desirable.

Central.—At least 45,000 superficial feet of additional floor space for the European Collections, part in top-lighted courts, part in top-lighted and side-lighted galleries ; addition to the libraries, consisting of book stores for 60,000 volumes, say equivalent to 6,000 superficial feet, one fifth 13 inches deep, and the remainder 9 inches deep in the clear, and two working rooms about 20 ft. \times 15 ft. each.

The entrance to the Art Library should be as direct as possible from the central main entrance.

Western.—At least 65,000 superficial feet of floor space, of which about one fourth in top-lighted courts should be provided for the Oriental Collections.

Such space as may remain unappropriated in the complete Cromwell Road and Exhibition Road fronts when the above requirements shall have been met is to consist of general court and gallery exhibition space.

Provision must be made for the apparatus required for warming the new buildings by hot water or steam.

The new buildings will be wholly lighted by electric light, and a space of 7,500 superficial feet will be required for the necessary electric lighting motive power and machinery.

The position of the building to contain the heating and lighting apparatus is indicated on Plan No. 1. This building, which must have a suitable furnace chimney or tower, is to consist of basement below the level of the present roadway, with one or more storeys over a portion of the basement if thought desirable.

A communication will be obtainable between the new boiler house at the east end of this building and the present vaults containing the apparatus for warming the existing Library building.

Fire service throughout the new building must also be provided.

The cost of the fire service and warming apparatus is to be included in the estimate, but the cost of the electric lighting apparatus is not to be included.

A branch subway has been formed under the Exhibition Road from the subway on the west side of the road up to the boundary on the east side where shown on Plan No. 1, and the necessary staircase, etc., should be provided for connecting the same with the new building.

The new buildings generally should consist of top-lighted courts with galleries surrounding them on ground, first, and second floors where practicable, the galleries being in, say, three heights of about 20 to 30 feet each, the top-lighted courts not being necessarily carried so high as the top of the building. The basement should not be less than 12 ft. high. The galleries on the ground and first floors may be side-lighted from the exterior and from the top-lighted courts, the second floor galleries being wholly top-lighted and suitable for the exhibition of pictures, prints, drawings, etc.

Great care must be taken to obtain perfect lighting, that being of primary importance; and it may be observed that the present Lord President's Court and Italian Court are found by the Museum authorities to be very satisfactory in that respect.

The internal architecture must also be such as to admit of the greatest amount of exhibition wall space being obtainable.

It is not intended that decorative painting or mosaics shall form any part of the proposed new work, they are, therefore, not to be included in the estimate.